DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 361 322 SP 034 724

AUTHOR Nelson, Marguerite Hansen
TITLE Teacher Stories: Teaching Archetypes Revealed by Analysis.
REPORT NO ISBN-0-911168-86-9
PUB DATE 93
NOTE 122p.
AVAILABLE FROM Prakken Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 8623, Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8623.
PUB TYPE Books (010) -- Reports - Evaluative/Feasibility (142)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Career Choice; Elementary School Teachers; Elementary Secondary Education; *Personal Narratives; Perspective Taking; *Reminiscence; Secondary School Teachers; Story Telling; *Teacher Attitudes; Teacher Recruitment; *Teaching (Occupation); *Teaching Experience
IDENTIFIERS Archetypes; *Experienced Teachers; *Teaching Perspectives

ABSTRACT

This book analyzes a collection of 147 stories from more than 50 teachers about memorable moments in their teaching careers. Recurrent themes from these stories, depicting the interactive nature of teaching, the teaching-learning process, and the rewards of teaching, are categorized. Because the work of teachers is generally devalued and misrepresented, and teachers' earning potential is lower than that in other professions, it is considered important to provide insight into teachers' experiences in order to attract capable students to teaching as a career. An introductory chapter shares the author's inspiration for the project; chapter 2 describes implementation of the research and introduces the participants; chapter 3 completes preparation for reading the stories by presenting an argument for their authenticity and by indicating why and how the stories were categorized according to themes; chapters 4 and 5 offer a sampling of the stories reflecting the interactive and interpersonal nature of teaching; chapters 6 and 7 reveal how teachers describe their work and what makes them value it; and chapter 8 reflects on the results--interpretations, cautions, implications, and applications. (Contains approximately 150 references.) (LL)

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